Nancy Blaskewicz, President [blaskewicz@wilmington.k12.pa.us](mailto:blaskewicz@wilmington.k12.pa.us)

**Butler-Lawrence-Mercer Reading Council**

Michele Evans, Vice President [michele.evans@zoominternet.net](mailto:michele.evans@zoominternet.net)

Linda Ziegler, Secretary [lziegler@greenville.k12.pa.us](mailto:lziegler@greenville.k12.pa.us)

Mary Campbell, Treasurer

Paula Kerlik, Membership

**Call to Order:**

The Butler-Lawrence-Mercer Reading Council met March 19, 2014 in the Witherspoon Lake View Room at Westminster College in New Wilmington, PA. President Nancy Blaskewicz called the meeting to order at 5:13 pm. President Blaskewicz acknowledged the officers: President-Elect Michele Evans, Secretary Linda Ziegler, and Government Relations Kim Deniker. Nancy acknowledged our Guest Speaker, Dr. Tina Keller; and her students, Kayla Magusiak and Katherine Schaeffer St. Pierre.

**Officer Reports:**

* The minutes from the November 23, 2013 meeting were emailed to members. There were no corrections or additions. The minutes stand approved.
* The BLM Reading Council treasurer's report was presented. As of March 1, 2014, the balance is $4,593.11.
* Nancy Blaskewicz gave the Membership report. We have 47 members as of February, 2014.
* Kim Deniker presented the Government Relations report.

- The International Reading Association (IRA) had changed its name to The International Literacy Association (ILA). The website will remain the same: [www.reading.org](http://www.reading.org).

- A Jack R. Luskay Memorial Scholarship will be available through PSLA.

- Under Chapter 4, PA has decided to use the PA Core Standards instead of the National Common Core Standards. High school graduation requirements will include required courses; a score of “proficiency” in Algebra I, Literature, and Biology; and/or a Project for those who cannot pass the Keystone Exams or for those whose parents opt out of testing. As of 2017, there will be no graduation project for high school students. Five more Keystone Exams will be added, but testing will be voluntary.

- Act 48 hours earned through school districts and/or Intermediate Units will be on the PA website by June 2014.

* President Nancy Blaskewicz told members that our Charter from KSRA cannot be found.
* The April 1, 2014 program includes a presentation by Dr. Ali Dubois, Early Childhood Professor from Westminster College and her students.

**Unfinished Business:**

* President Blaskewicz accepted **BLM Community Involvement Grant** application**s** for a summer Middle School Tutoring project and a Literacy Read-a-Thon night. Additional projects may be submitted for the April 1 vote. One project from each county will receive $100.

**New Business:**

* President-elect Michele Evans will advance to President for her two-year term. Mary Campbell will retain the Treasurer’s position for 2014. Nominations were accepted for President-elect, Secretary, and Members at large. Nomination will also be accepted at the April 1 meeting before the vote.
* The next meeting will be April 1, 2014 at Westminster College. Dr. Ali DuBois will be the speaker.
* The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 pm.

**Program:** Dr. Tina Keller and her students presented a PowerPoint and interactive program, “An Overview of the Socratic Technique.” Members participated in a Socratic Seminar through a metacognitive discussion of ***The Washington Post*** article, “You think you know what teachers do. Right? Wrong.” Members set personal participation goals and reflected on their success in meeting their goals through the seminar process. Dr. Keller shared information for teachers to use with their students or other groups as well as the article, “Socratic Seminars: Making Meaningful Dialogue” from ***Making Common Core Come Alive!*** Volume II,Issue IV. 2013; and the website [www.just](http://www.just) ask publications.com.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Ziegler, Secretary